

Geology Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the Geology Merit Badge program at Riverbend Park. The program is held at the Riverbend Visitor Center located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls.

Below is the recommended homework to be completed before the program:

We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.com and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

Requirement 1. Define geology. Discuss how geologists learn about rock formations. In geology, explain why the study of the present is important to understanding the past.

Requirement 2. Pick three resources that can be extracted or mined from Earth for commercial use. Discuss with your counselor how each product is discovered and processed.

Requirement 4.b. Find out about three career opportunities available in geology. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for the profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Requirement 5. C. 1. Define rock. Discuss the three classes of rocks including their origin and characteristics.

Requirement 5. C. 2. Define mineral. (We will do the rest of this requirement in class.)

Requirement 5. C. 3. B. Collect 15 different rocks and minerals and write down where it was collected. Collecting rocks or other materials from County, Regional or National Parks is prohibited. If you do not have a legal place to collect rocks, we will visit rocky places in the park to complete this requirement. (We will do the rest of this requirement in class.)

What to bring to the program:

- Bring your blue card (Riverbend does not have blue cards.)
- Bring your completed homework. It is OK if you cannot complete the homework before class. You can bring completed homework in at a later date for sign-off.
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms.
- Bring a pencil and pen.
- Bring a flashlight, if the program is held after dusk.
- We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.com and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

- Bring a snack and drink or money to purchase some at the visitor center. Bring more substantial food if your program is longer than four hours.

Homework to be completed after the program:

None.

The merit badge counselor will do a demonstration or explain the process for completing the final merit badge requirements. Your scout must provide evidence of completion in order to obtain blue card sign-off. Digital photographs of your scout doing the element and a picture of the completed requirement will be sufficient evidence.

If your scout has a strong understanding of the requirement, he is welcome to complete this requirement at any time. Remember to document work and completion via digital pictures.

Once the homework and class work are completed, all elements of the merit badge will be complete.

If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-759-9018 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Riverbend's Merit Badge Counselors

Karen Sheffield, Ethan Kuhnhenh, Tina Driskell, Chris Kopsick, Michelle Brannon, Marijke Gate

Karen Sheffield

Senior Interpreter, Riverbend Park

Fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend

703-759-9018

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